

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 4 and 6 through 17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 2, 6, and 13 have been amended by this Amendment. Allowance of claims 13 through 17 is noted with appreciation.

Claim objections

Claims 5 and 13 were objected to because of the informalities which the Examiner kindly pointed out. Claims 5 is deleted and 13 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication. The objection to claims 5 and 13 therefore no longer apply, and should be withdrawn.

Objection to claims 2-4 and 6-12

Claims 2-4 and 6-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The objection to claims 2 and 6 therefore no longer applies and these claims should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 7 depend from amended claims 2 and 6, respectively, which are both now allowable. Claims 3 and 7 should therefore allowable. Claims 4 and 7 through 12 depend from allowable dependent claims which ultimately depend from amended independent claims 2 or 6. All of claims 2 through 4 and 6 through 12 should therefore now be in allowable condition.



PATENT
P55492

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

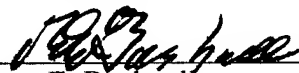
Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herng-Chuen U.S. Patent No. 5,914,703. These claims have been deleted.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 5, as amended, as allowable for the same reasons that claims 2 and 6 are allowable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert E. Bushnell,
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-9040

Folio: P55492
Date: 6/21/00
I.D.: REB/RHS

RECEIVED
JUN 22 2000
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

A